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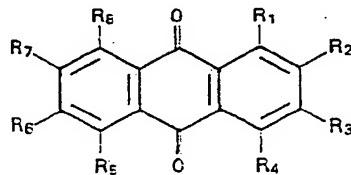
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(54) Marking and denaturing composition, particularly suitable for marking and denaturing diesel oil and similar oil products.

(57) The invention relates to a marking and denaturing composition, particularly suitable for marking and denaturing diesel oil and similar oil products.

The said composition contains an anthraquinone derivative having the formula:



where R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl, cycloalkyl or arylalkyl radical having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

EP 0 201 368 A1

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MARKING AND DENATURING COMPOSITION, PARTICULARLY SUITABLE FOR
MARKING AND DENATURING DIESEL OIL AND SIMILAR OIL PRODUCTS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The invention relates to a marking and denaturing composition, particularly suitable for marking and denaturing diesel oil and similar oil products.

There is currently a need for marking oil products (for example fuels or industrial solvents) due to the difference in price at which
10 that same product may be offered for sale. Indeed, as a consequence of different rates of taxation, diesel oils intended e.g. for agricultural purposes, or diesel oils intended for the fishing industry are taxed at a lower rate than diesel oil intended for road vehicles and such a situation is liable to give rise to fiscal fraud, when the product is
15 furnished for purposes different to those provided for by the fiscal regulations. This is in fact why the products are usually marked by means of suitable compounds, which allow an easy identification. An ideal marker or marking composition should exhibit the following features:

- 20 - a satisfactory stability under conditions of normal use;
 - no impairing of the physico-chemical features of the petroleum fuel or of the solvent;
 - a solubility sufficient to allow use in the form of a concentrated solution;
- 25 - very low chances of being eliminated by means of physical or chemical methods;
 - possibility of being used in small quantities;
 - possibility of being identified by means of simple, quick and very sensitive methods;
- 30 - absence of negative toxicological features.

Not all proposed or used marking compositions can completely

satisfy such requirements. In fact, the best known markers are:

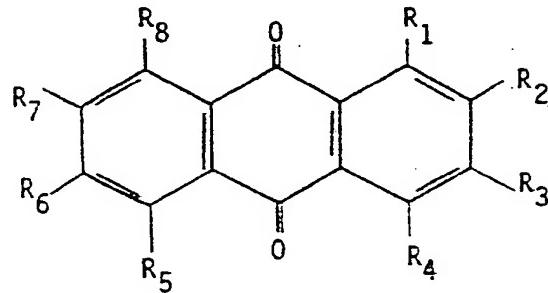
- radioactive substances, requiring particular care, during handling, because of physiological dangers;
- metallorganic compounds, generally showing a poor stability during storage;
- furfural, which could also be present as traces naturally occurring in the oil cuts, and thus give rise to a positive test due simply to the particular kind of analysis (furfural, moreover, shows poor stability);
- diphenylamine, which can be rather easily eliminated; since it is an amino-aryl compound, diphenylamine must be handled in a carefully strictly controlled zone;
- primary, secondary or tertiary arylamines, which can easily be extracted by means of diluted acids; as with the case of diphenylamine, their handling is controlled by very strict regulations;
- naphthols, which could already be present within the oil cuts and which can easily be eliminated.

U.S. patent 4.209.302 discloses the use of naphtylamine derivatives. However, these compounds do not completely satisfy the requirements herein-above, especially because they can easily be extracted from the marked product.

The applicant has now found a new marking composition allowing an unexpected and unforeseen reduction of the drawbacks herein-above.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

In its widest form the invention concerns a marking and denaturing composition, particularly suitable for diesel oil and for similar oil products, containing an anthraquinone derivative having the formula:



where R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 and R_8 identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl, cycloalkyl or arylalkyl radical having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

Oils products similar to diesel oil are, for example, gasoline, kerosene oil and lamp oil.

The amounts of anthraquinone derivative to be used as a marker can vary within wide limits and the minimum value merely depends upon the 5 identification test. By using the simple and rapid test described herein-after, concentrations as low as 1 to 3 ppm can be used.

Generally, a greater amount is added, in order to obtain in any case a positive result and also to foresee the case where the marked product is diluted at the time the fraud occurs. From a practical point 10 of view, from 1 to 300 ppm (and preferably 3-50 ppm) can be used.

The advantages inherent within the present anthraquinone derivative having formula (I) are the following:

- no counter-indications of toxicological nature;
- considerable stability with respect to the oil product to be 15 marked;
- difficulty to eliminate the said marker from its solutions within the oil products, by means, for example, of adsorption techniques on active carbons, alumina, decoloring earth or silica gel;
- no modification of color of the oil product, whereby the presence 20 within diesel oil can be ascertained only when carrying out a specific test;
- it can be identified and determined quantitatively by means of very simple methods that do not require complicated devices and can be carried out by unskilled personnel;
- it can be handled either as a solid or as a solution in organic 25 solvents, optionally in admixture with other colored or colorless markers.

The markers according to the present invention should be prescribed, in particular, when an anthraquinone dye and/or an azoic dye is 30 present; best results are obtained when using said markers or marking compositions in admixture with furfural and/or with other suitable organic solvents, for example xylenes, these xylenes generally acting as a diluent.

As to the method of identifying the products it is preferable to 35 operate according to the following method:

- 10 cm³ of acetone and 5 cm³ of an aqueous and alkaline solution of sodium dithionite are added to 200 cm³ of marked diesel oil which is thereafter stirred and left to decant for 5-10 minutes, whereby the bottom layer presents a red color characteristic of the

0201368

anthraquinone derivative according to formula (I).

The following examples illustrate the invention, without however in any way limiting its scope.

EXAMPLE 1

- 5 1 g of 2-ethyl-anthraquinone was added to 100 cm³ of a mixture of xylenes and to 3 cm³ of the solution thus obtained a diesel oil, intended for motorboats, was added until 1 liter volume was obtained, i.e. a solution containing 30 mg/dm³ (30 ppm) of 2-ethyl-anthraquinone. Thereafter, 10 cm³ of acetone and 5 cm³ of an aqueous solution
10 containing 15% by weight of Na₂S₂O₄ in aqueous NaOH (10% by weight) were added to 200 cm³ of the diesel oil marked as above; after stirring for 20 seconds, the solution was decanted for 10 minutes, thereby obtaining a deep red aqueous layer on the bottom.

EXAMPLE 2 (Blank, comparative example)

- 15 Example 1 was repeated, by carrying out the test on the same diesel oil, without any admixture of the marking solution, the final bottom layer was light brown.

EXAMPLE 3

- 100 cm³ of diesel oil, marked as in example 1, were admixed with
20 900 cm³ of previously unmarked diesel oil, thus reducing the amount of marker to 3 mg/dm³; the colorimetric test caused formation of a final bottom layer still red, the intensity of which was much lower than that obtained in example 1.

EXAMPLE 4

- 25 100 cm³ of unmarked diesel oil, 20 cm³ of acetone and 10 cm³ of the dithionite solution of example 1 were added to 100 cm³ of diesel oil marked as in example 1; after stirring and decanting, the bottom phase was collected in a volumetric flask. The absorption intensity, after filtration, was determined at 50 nm (nanometer). A calibration plot
30 allowed to confirm with precision the original marker concentration.

EXAMPLE 5

- 1 g of a composition, obtained by mixing 8 g of 2-ethyl-anthraquinone, 8 g of furfural, 64.8 g of an anthraquinone dye (known according to the COLOR INDEX as "solvent green 33"), and 7.2 g of mixed
35 xylenes, were added to 4 kg of a diesel oil to be used for motorboats, thus obtaining a fuel containing 20 ppm of 2-ethyl-anthraquinone. The colorimetric test of example 1 was carried out on 200 cm³ of the thus marked oil and an aqueous bottom layer presenting a deep red color was obtained.

0201368

EXAMPLE 6

1 g of 2-ethyl-anthraquinone was added to 100 cm³ of a mixture of xylenes and to 3 cm³ of the thus obtained xylenic solution a gasoline to be used for motorboats in the fishing industry was added until the obtention of a 1 liter volume. The resulting solution contained 30 mg/dm³ of 2-ethyl-anthraquinone. Thereafter, 100 cm³ of virgin (unmarked) diesel oil, 10 cm³ of acetone and 5 cm³ of the dithionite solution of example 1 were added to 100 cm³ of gasoline marked as above; the test was operated as in example 1 and a deep red aqueous layer was obtained on the bottom.

EXAMPLE 7

Example 6 was repeated while replacing gasoline by lamp oil to be used for the lighting of fishing boats. In this case the final bottom aqueous layer obtained also presented a deep red color.

15 EXAMPLES 8-14

Example 1 was repeated while modifying the chemical nature of the marker and its concentration; data and results are on table 1.

TABLE 1

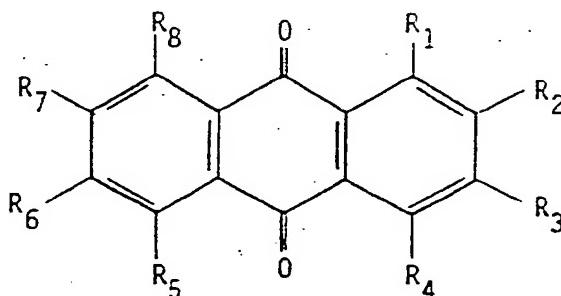
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CLAIMS

1.- A marking and denaturing composition, particularly suitable for marking and denaturing oil and similar oil products, containing an anthraquinone derivative having the formula:

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where R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 and R_8 identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl, cycloalkyl or arylalkyl radical having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

2.- Composition according to claim 1, also containing a usual dye for oil products, in particular an azoic dye and/or an anthraquinone dye.

3.- Composition according to claim 1, also containing as a diluent furfural and/or suitable organic solvents, for example xylenes.

4.- A marking and denaturing composition suitable for marking diesel oil, containing 2-ethyl-anthraquinone and preferably further containing a suitable organic solvent as a diluent.

5.- Composition according to claim 4, further containing furfural and/or an anthraquinone dye.

6.- Marked diesel oil containing from 1 to 300 ppm and preferably from 3 to 50 ppm of 2-ethyl-anthraquinone, preferably in admixture with furfural and/or with an anthraquinone dye.

7.- A method for marking and/or denaturing diesel oil or other similar oil product, wherein the anthraquinone derivative of claim 1 is added to the product to be marked and/or denatured, preferably in admixture with furfural, with an anthraquinone dye and with a proper solvent, for example xylenes.

8.- A method according to claim 7, wherein the amount of said anthraquinone derivative is comprised between 1 and 300 ppm, and preferably between 3 and 50 ppm, with respect to the oil product to be marked and/or denatured.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

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EP 85 40 0642

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	GB-A- 851 639 (ESSO) * Claims 1-4,6; page 1, lines 32-47 *	1,2,7	C 10 L 1/00 C 10 L 1/18 C 10 L 1/20
Y	---	3	
A	BE-A- 524 604 (SEIFERT VAN DER MERWEDE) * Claims 1,2,9,10; page 1, lines 5-7 *	1,7	
Y	---	3	
A	GB-A- 361 310 (HOWARD FERGUSON) * Claim 1; page 1, lines 35-39 *	1-3,7	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
A	US-A-3 164 449 (BUXBAUM) * Claims 1,9,10; column 1, line 35 - column 2, line 9; column 2, line 64 - column 3, line 3; column 3, line 68 - column 4, line 6 *	1-3,7	C 10 L C 09 B
A	DE-C-2 702 985 (BASE) * Claims 1,3; column 4, lines 35-45 *	1-7	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE	Date of completion of the search 20-06-1986	Examiner DE LA MORINERIE B.M.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
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